17th Annual Systems and Software Technology Conference Focused on Defense Capabilities

The theme for this year's Systems and Software Technology Conference (SSTC) was "Capabilities: Building, Protecting, and Deploying." Once again the theme targeted the SSTC vision to be the Department of Defense's premier forum to enhance attendees' professional skills and knowledge of systems and software technologies and policies, enabling them to improve the capabilities they provide to the warfighter. This year's conference included more than 180 events to choose from, including general sessions, speaker luncheons, plenary sessions, presentation tracks, and exhibitor tracks.

As the theme suggested, this year's SSTC highlighted the technologies, processes, and practices to deliver enhanced capabilities to the U.S. military. Many of the latest technologies and human ingenuities that make these challenges an opportunity were presented at the 2005 SSTC from April 18-21 in Salt Lake City. Attendees heard from defense and industry leaders, learning from more than 178 expert presentations in topics ranging from acquisition to net centricity to Web service protocols. In addition, they evaluated new and longtime products from more than 210 exhibitors, and networked among the 1,900 attendees focused on similar issues, problems, and solutions.

The SSTC is one of the largest co-sponsored events for U.S. defense-related software technologies, policies, and practices. It is co-sponsored by the U.S. Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, Defense Information Systems Agency, Department of the Navy, and Utah State University Extension. The co-sponsors have already started planning SSTC 2006, which is scheduled for May 1-4 in Salt Lake City.◆

Photos by Randy Schreifels of the Software Technology Support Center.

Gen. John W. Handy, commander, U.S. Transportation Command, and commander, Air Mobility Command, U.S. Air Force, addressed attendees at Thursday's Plenary Session Speaker Brunch about the importance of software and technology in delivering needed supplies to troops in the battlefield.
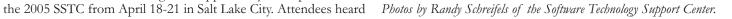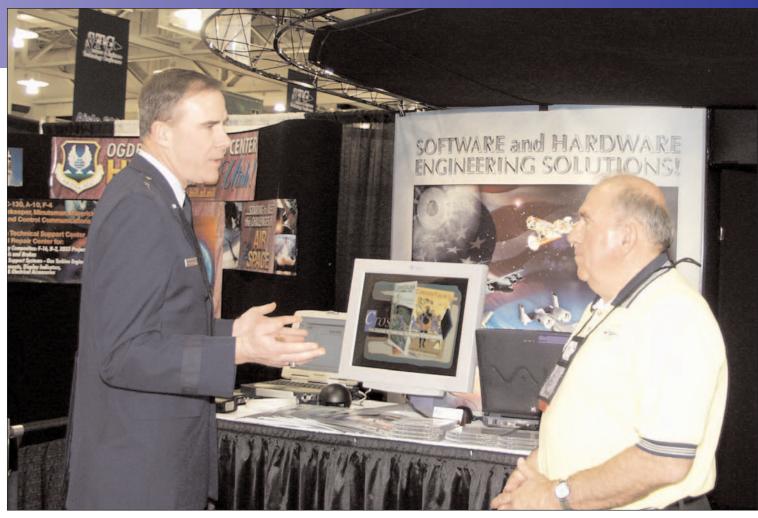

The Co-Sponsor Panel session included (from left) Donald Reiter, Office of CIO, Department of the Navy; John M. Gilligan, CIO, U.S. Air Force; Maj. Gen. Conrad Ponder, Jr., director of Chief Integration Office G-6, U.S. Army; Rebecca Harris, director, GIG ESE; and moderated by David Mihelcic, DISA CTO.

Brig. Gen. Robert H. McMahon, director of Maintenance, Ogden Air Logistics Center, Hill Air Force Base, Utah, talks with Ken Wilks of the 309 SMXG, Hill AFB, during the SSTC trade show that featured 210 exhibitors.

Below: To encourage networking among attendees and exhibitors at SSTC, the brunches, refreshment break, and coffee and dessert break were hosted in the trade show among the exhibitors.

Above: An Industry Panel session included (from left) Dr. Jim Kane, president and CEO, Systems and Software Consortium, Inc.; Lou Von Thayer, president, General Dynamics Advanced Information Systems; Dr. David F. McQueeney, chief technology officer, IBM Federal; Grover W. Hall, v.p., Technical Operations, Lockheed Martin Space Systems Co.; Paul Cofoni, president, CSC Federal Sector; and Bob Stow, v.p., Engineering and Technology, BAE SYSTEMS, North America.

Below: Again this year, winners of the 2004 U.S. Government's Top 5 Programs were presented with their awards. Articles about these winning programs will appear in September's CROSSTALK.

Above: Speaking at the Opening General Session at SSTC were (from left) Maj. Kurt Warner, XVIII Airborne Corps and the 82nd Airborne Division; Priscilla E. Guthrie, chief information officer, Department of Defense; and Brig. Gen. Robert H. McMahon, Ogden Air Logistics Center, Hill Air Force Base, Utah.

Below: Ellen Gottesdiener, EBG Consulting, Inc. was one of 178 presenters at the SSTC during the four-day conference.